

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
OKINAWA BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239

MOK-2019
24 February 1982

[redacted]
Director, FBIS

Dear John:

Subject: IC Staff Visit/FSN Scale

An apparent recurring theme during recent meetings of IC officers [redacted] and [redacted] with FBIS Far East bureau chiefs was our participation in the FSN classification system and the problems therein. This question surfaced first in Seoul and then in Hong Kong, [redacted] was asked about it in considerable detail.

In response to their question to me, I, of course, pointed out that fortunately we were now the only Bureau in the field not attached to an Embassy in some way and thus Okinawa (and Panama for the time being) was not part of the worldwide classification system. Since the IC'ers were not visiting Bangkok Bureau I took the opportunity to fill them in on the very serious problems related to the FSN system there, which had resulted in low morale among long-time Bureau employees and is now proving to be a real handicap in recruiting. I also explained the historical background of our involvement in the FSN system worldwide a couple years ago. I noted that the greatest problems from the system were probably in Bangkok, Vienna, and Nicosia, but in the Far East difficulties of a lesser degree were emerging in Seoul and Hong Kong in areas of promotion limitation, as well as recruitment and retention. Lachman particularly seemed genuinely interested and concerned about this unfortunate situation--which is no doubt the most serious problem affecting FBIS field Bureaus universally at the present time.

I am describing this interest of the IC senior officers simply because it would seem that they should have some influence in pressing our cause in our attempt to withdraw from the FSN system. I would suggest you might call [redacted] who should have some "clout" even in the personnel area, to see if he could assist in any way in this matter.

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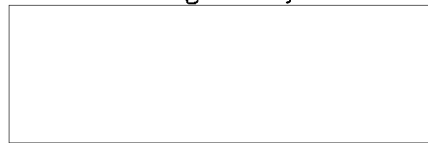
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Looking forward to seeing you in April.

Best regards,



Chief, Okinawa Bureau

cc: Chief, Operations Group

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